



FACT SHEET

AVIAN FLU

Background

In early December, Avian Flu (H5N1) was confirmed in Ukraine (confirmation was made by a reference laboratory in Great Britain). While the Government of Ukraine (GOU) has since taken measures to contain the virus and clean the contaminated villages, the threat of H5N1 reappearing remains a serious problem; Ukraine is a host country to migratory birds coming from regions with confirmed Avian Influenza (AI) cases in birds and humans. It also borders several countries that have confirmed cases of AI in birds and humans, including Romania, Russia, and neighboring Turkey. Over the next several migratory periods, chances of AI H5N1 reappearing remain high given the significant bird migration that will take place, the virulence of AI, and the easily transmitted nature of the virus.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Avian Flu initiative is to support limited public awareness campaigns and to provide essential equipment, supplies and technical assistance to support the government in effectively containing initial AI outbreaks in birds. Since October, USAID has identified the need for assistance in three areas: 1) public awareness campaigns, 2) equipment and supplies, and 3) monitoring and containment of suspicious cases.

ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC AWARENESS: Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE).

USAID and CURE are working with the GOU to conduct an extensive public education campaign targeted at people who work, live, or are in regular contact with poultry throughout Ukraine but especially in the high risk oblasts, as well as to implement a national information campaign for the general public.

This AI public education effort involves TV and radio programming on AI, including PSAs; print publications for the general public, affected regions and media; regional and national AI educational seminars for poultry workers, media, representatives of agricultural advisory services, private householders, representatives of veterinary and sanitary services, and local state authorities;

press club meetings in the regions and Kiev; and, regular monitoring of national and regional media.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Program for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH); Land O' Lakes

Equipment and Supplies. Through the PATH project, USAID is procuring AI H5N1 testing supplies and personal protective equipment to screen at-risk populations for cases of AI in humans.

Monitoring and Containment. USAID and Land O'Lakes are working to strengthen GOU capacity to monitor for cases of AI H5N1 and to respond appropriately to contain any additional cases. The Mission expects to support local veterinarian services to monitor cases of sick and dead birds by providing training to veterinary workers, poultry owners and others in regular contact with birds. If additional cases are detected, there will be a need to scale up support to veterinarian services to identify and destroy sick and dead birds. Support to veterinary services will also involve working with commercial poultry industries and farmers in AI prevention and containment activities.

Accomplishments:

- Procured and delivered of \$43,000 in laboratory reagents and testing equipment along with personal protective gear;
- Conducted national and regional media monitoring on a weekly basis;
- Produced a special issue of the UREP periodical "New Courier" containing regional articles about AI with a print run of 8,000 copies;
- Conducted CURE Press Club press briefings on Avian Flu;
- Distributed an initial PSA (general AI prevention hygiene recommendations) to 135 TV stations, including Crimean stations;
- Printed AI information flyers (7,000 copies in Ukrainian and 1,000 in Russian).